

Allegheny Synod – ELCA
Synod Council Zoom Meeting
November 20, 2021

The September Synod Council meeting was called to order by Ann Ferry at 9am

Upon motion by Gary Gable, second by Allen Stump

- **SC21.11.01** - to adopt the agenda for today's meeting... the motion is adopted

Pr. Karen Ward lead us in devotions this morning

Upon motion by Joyce Long, seconded by Bill Layton

- **SC21.11.02** – to adopt the minutes of the September Synod Council meeting as presented... the motion is adopted

Synod Officer Comments

Bishop's Comments

Old Business

Covenant of Understanding...

The Synod Council commissioned a working group consisting of Ann Ferry, Pr. Karen Ward & Pr. Amanda McCaffery to work on the Covenant & forward a draft version for consideration at the September meeting.

Upon motion by Pr. Karen Ward, seconded by Bishop Paula Schmitt

- **SC21.11.03** - to adopt the revised Covenant of Understanding as amended... the motion is adopted

1. Worship & Service

2. Leadership & Congregational Development

In the matter of Pr. Curt Wingert's acceptance of a call in the Upper Susquehanna Synod & his subsequent resignation from an unfinished 2-year term (*June 2021 – June 2023*) on the Allegheny Synod Council.

Upon motion by Pr. Becky Horn, seconded by Marlin Plymette

- **SC21.11.04** – to fill this vacancy, a 1-year term on Synod Council (Clergy) by vote of the 2022 Synod Assembly... the motion is adopted

3. Faith Formation

4. Planning & Resources

The Synod Assembly Committee has recommended the following rotation for future Synod Assemblies thru 2027.

- The 2022 & 2023 Synod Assemblies will be on-line
- The 2024 Synod Assembly will be live & in-person
- The 2025 & 2026 Synod Assemblies will be on-line
- The 2027 Synod Assembly & Bishop's election will be live & in-person

Pr. Amanda McCaffery shared a “sense” of the Blair-Huntingdon Conference pastors not being supportive of this recommendation. Dave Finney related his experience with the complexity of the on-line Synod Assembly, as well as the lack of proper Synod Assembly registration, which is required to properly constitute the Assembly as per ***+S7.21***.

Upon motion by Dave Finney, seconded by Marlin Plymette.

- ***SC21.11.05*** – to adopt the Synod Assembly Committee's recommendation only for Synod Assemblies in years 2022, 2023 & 2024 (as stated above).

During the ensuing discussion, an amended motion was offered to replace motion ***SC21.11.05*** by Ann Ferry, seconded by Allen Stump

- ***SC21.11.05a*** – to commit to a 1-day on-line Synod Assembly in 2022 & to request that the 2022 Synod Assembly decide by ballot the scope & structure of future Synod Assemblies... the amended motion is adopted

5. Financial Management

Support Funds to Seminarians...

Upon motion by Dave Finney, seconded by Pr. Amanda McCaffrey

- ***SC21.11.06*** – that the sum of \$18,500 be disbursed to those eligible seminarians identified by the Office of the Bishop, as per Continuing Resolution ***S15.40.A18***... the motion is adopted

Upon motion by Gary Gable , seconded by Joyce Long

- ***SC.21.11.07*** - to consider a request from the Synod Assembly Committee for \$400, to purchase the Guidebook App for use during the 2022 Synod Assembly... the motion is lost

Upon motion by Gary Gable, seconded by Andrea Paul

- ***SC21.11.08*** - to appoint attorney Megan E. Will to serve as the Allegheny Synod attorney... the motion is adopted

Treasurer Bill Layton – Financial Report

The Synod received an unqualified Audit report for the previous year, no evidence of fraud or theft was found, certification papers were provided

Upon motion by Pr. Amanda McCaffery, seconded by Allen Stump

- **SC21.11.09** – that we act on Treasurer Layton recommendation that the Allegheny Synod engage the firm of Beer Ream & Co (*Somerset, PA*) again for next year's audit, providing them with an engagement letter for a 1-year term... the motion is adopted

Ann Ferry adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.

The next Synod Council meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2022

Synod Council members in attendance... 14 of 14

- Executive Committee
 - Bishop Paula Schmitt - present
 - VP Ann Ferry - present
 - Secretary Dave Finney – present
 - Treasurer Bill Layton – present
 - Vicar Allen Stump – present
- Council Members
 - Gary Gable - present
 - Pr. Nancy Hoover - present
 - Pr. Rebecca Horn - present
 - Joyce Long – present
 - Pr. Amanda McCaffery - present
 - Andrea Paul – present
 - Michele Peese – present
 - Marlin Plymette – present
 - Pr. Karen Ward – present
- Synod Staff

Covenant of Understanding

Synod Council of the Allegheny Synod

Mission Statement: Called by God to be one in Christ: we worship, grow in faith, and serve all people.

Covenant: A mutual agreement between God and God's people, based on mutual accountability, faithfulness, and love.

This covenant expresses the call to each of us to, "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12- 13).

The installation rite for members of Synod Council asks: Will you assume the office to which you have been elected and will you endeavor to carry out its duties faithfully, to the glory of Christ our Lord and in service to the one holy church?

As God's people called together for service of the Allegheny Synod and Christ's church, with the help of God, the Allegheny Synod Council members are expected to:

Uphold the Constitution and Bylaws of the Allegheny Synod and the ELCA.

Confidentiality. Synod Council meetings are open to anyone. But issues that are brought up in Executive Session are confidential until the time when it is able to be shared. Confidentiality allows the issue to be handled while protecting the privacy of those involved in sensitive situations.

Participation. Prepare for and faithfully attend all meetings of the synod council. Be mentally present. Enable pro-activity: spend more time creating, not approving.

Respectful dialogue and behavior. Respect and care for each other. Matthew 19:19 ("Love your neighbor as yourself") Listen and be open, with a nonjudgmental mind, to the words and ideas of others in our synod and on our council. Discuss, debate, and disagree openly in council meetings, expressing ourselves as clearly, honestly, and directly as possible.

Lead by Example. Demonstrate our leadership and commitment to our synod by our example; support our synod, its congregations, pastors, and staff so that their efforts can be most productive; try to discover, through prayer and discernment, what God is calling us to.

Be accountable to each other. Seek to hold the synod and each other accountable to our mission focus and constitutional mandate to shape all decisions and tasks.

Work together in a spirit of cooperation and flexibility. Find ways to work together for the good of the Allegheny Synod and its members. Be adaptable and open to change.

Faithfully support the Synod with prayers, presence, gifts, and service. Treat our time on the Synod Council as an opportunity to make an important gift to our Synod.